

## The Mother's Gift.

desired to know, if he was fond of his brother and sister, if he spoke in an obliging manner to the servants, and other inferiors, if he behaved civilly to his visitors and playfellows? Mrs. Smith shook her head: of what then madam, said Mr. Allworthy, can such a boy be proud? What could make him despise a child, who spoke so prettily as Charles Nichols did? Indeed, Sir, answered Mrs. Smith, I had no expectation of his gaining the reward; but I brought him, that he might be humbled into a sense of his faults, by comparison with others. I pity *you* sincerely, madam, said Mr. Allworthy, yet I still more pity *him*, for whoever is naughty, injures himself. How miserable, child, added he, must you be! Beloved by nobody, vexing every one. How could you possibly expect a reward, when  
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you only deserve punishment? stand near master Thompson very good, and therefore cannot fire to be of your acquaintance.

Charles Nichols was now the boy to be questioned. He stood with his eyes modestly cast down; Mr. Allworthy asked his father and mother what he was dutiful. They both cried out, Oh! Sir, this child, but five years old, is a real treasure to us. We never asked him to do anything, but he immediately performed it. When we have been sick, he attended us with the care and tenderness of a nurse, speaking in a low voice, and walking on tiptoe, to avoid disturbing us. He is the kindest of brothers. He never has given him to eat, but he rears his brother and sister the larger part of the year. He always refuses to take